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Estimates for the following two works * were countersigned and returned to the Executive Engineer for execution by the Public Works Department as a Revenue Department work. An estimate for Rs. 630 for extending the weir at the left flank of the Rajakalmangalam tank sent by the Executive Engineer to Superintending Engineer for approval has not been received yet by me for countersignature.

* (1) Strengthening the weak portion of the Rajakalmangalam bund and bank of the supply channel—Rs. 120.

(2) Reconstruction sluice No. 3 of the Rajakalmangalam tank—Rs. 580.

5. The estimate for the two works for Rs. 120 and Rs. 580, respectively, which were countersigned and returned to the Executive Engineer have already been sanctioned by him and sent to the Subdivisional Officer, Sermadevi, for execution. No amount was spent on the tank and channel during the past ten years.

Sengulam tank in Irappuvari village.—General repairs to the tank were carried out at a cost of Rs. 4,450 in 1926–27 and 1927–28. The tank is in an efficient condition and no repairs to this tank are urgently required now.

APPENDIX VII.

[Vide answer to question No. 212 asked by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st October 1933, page 176 supra.]

Press Communiqué of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, the 1st *July* 1930.

In 1917–18 the Government examined, in consultation with the Board of Revenue, the question of the amendment of the Dharkast rules with a view to facilitate the assignment of lands to the depressed classes. In June 1918 they passed orders directing the reservation of specific areas for assignment for cultivation to these classes wherever possible. Collectors were further directed to see that the present and prospective needs of the depressed classes were considered when considerable areas of poramboke or unassessed land were transferred to the head of assessed, as for example, when reserved forests were disforested or grazing ground porambokes were transferred to the head of assessed.

2. These orders did not make it clear whether lands classed as valuable, which as a rule are sold in public auction, could be reserved for the depressed classes. In June 1925 the Government passed orders to the effect that such lands could and should be reserved for assignment to the depressed classes. The assignment of such lands should ordinarily be on payment of the estimated market value, and any proposals for the free grant of valuable lands should be submitted for the orders of the Government. The market value was to be collected in

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easy instalments, the payment of the first instalment being postponed for a few years after the date of assignment, if necessary, to give the assignees an opportunity of establishing themselves.

3. Lands classed as valuable include, among others, lands notified by the Government as likely to be affected by or to derive their present or prospective value solely from irrigation projects executed or to be executed at the cost of the State. It is obvious in fairness to the general tax-payer that every effort should be made to reduce the cost of such projects to the lowest figure possible and one of the ways in which this can be done is to sell the lands affected by the project for the full value which they will fetch in the open market. It was for this reason that the Government ordered in November 1928 that valuable lands of this description should not be reserved for assignment to the depressed classes. There was no intention that this order should have the effect of cancelling any reservation of such land that had been made prior to the issue of the order. In March 1930 the Board of Revenue issued a proceedings informing the Collector of Nellore that valuable lands affected by irrigation projects should be sold in auction even though they had been reserved for the depressed classes prior to November 1928. The Board of Revenue is now withdrawing this proceedings.

4. The present position is as follows :—

Valuable lands affected by irrigation projects will no longer be reserved for assignment to depressed classes. But lands which had been reserved for the depressed classes before 27th November 1928 will be assigned to them on the same terms as other valuable lands.

Lands not classed as valuable will continue to be reserved for and assigned to the depressed classes free of market value, wherever available.

Lands classed as valuable, other than lands affected by irrigation projects, will also continue to be reserved for the depressed classes on payment of market value in easy instalments, and in deserving cases free of market value under the special orders of the Government.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary to Government.